

Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company

**Study Guide Preparation
Chamizal National Memorial
2005 - 2006**

**Debby Gilbert
Outreach Program Director
915-588-5317
Fax 915-760-6420
debgil4068@aol.com**

**Layle Chambers
Artistic Director
915-593-5142
LayleMChambers@aol.com**

Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company

Arts in Education Outreach Program

Sharing Shakespeare's Wealth

The Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company

OFTC travels to area schools to introduce the work of William Shakespeare in a fun and interactive format. Students of all ages can appreciate the lively antics and sweet words of William Shakespeare. Professional actors perform scenes and involve students in an interactive performance. It is a helpful addition to the study of language, history, drama, literature and the craft of acting. *It brings Shakespeare to life right in the classroom!*

Who is William Shakespeare?

In 1585, a poor unknown young playwright and actor moved from a little town in England to try his luck in the professional theaters in and around London. His name was William Shakespeare.

Today many scholars and critics believe him to be greatest playwright that ever lived. His works have been analyzed, scrutinized, criticized, and debated for generations. The man and his work have become immortalized. He is thought of more as a legendary figure than as a real man.

Facts

1. William Shakespeare was born in England, in Stratford-upon-Avon, in April of the year 1564.
2. There are almost no records of William's childhood. It is largely assumed that he attended the local grammar school, where he would have learned the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. But his education would have been nothing special; which makes his later achievements even more extraordinary.
3. At the age of 21, Shakespeare leaves Stratford-upon-Avon and moves to London where he joins the acting troupe known as 'The Lord Chamberlain's Men' and the rest is history.
4. Most scholars give him credit for writing 37 plays.
5. William Shakespeare died of unknown causes on April 23rd, 1616, at the age of 52 leaving only a moderate estate to be divided by his heirs.
6. Shakespeare is most remembered for his use of the English language. No other playwright has ever used language as effectively as Shakespeare.

Discussion:

Why do we still perform the works of Shakespeare?

What are some of his most famous plays or lines from those plays?

What are some phrases we still use today that are Shakespearean?

“Tis Shakespearish” by Dr. Joel Murray

OFTC’s Outreach Company will present a fun (and slightly silly) adaptation of selected Shakespearean plays entitled *‘Tis Shakespearish* written by Dr. Joel Murray, professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso. This short play is a compilation of various characters and scenes from well-known Shakespeare plays such as *Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and does require *some selected audience participation!*

Vocabulary

Cauldron: A big, black pot.

Scroll: A long roll of paper used for writing.

Pyramus & Thisby: The story of two lovers much like the one told in *Romeo & Juliet* (as told in the ancient Greek poem *‘Metamorphoses’* by Ovid).

Tyrant: A brutal dictator.

Lofty: Elevated in character or spirit, noble.

Wandering Knight: A medieval warrior pledged to chivalry*.

Chivalry: A code of honor.

Fie!: An exclamation of surprise or dismay.

Hence: To go away from.

Soliloquy: A speech that an actor makes to show the audience what is in his mind when he is alone onstage.

Doth: Archaic or old English form of ‘to do’.

Ninus’ Tomb: The lovers in Ovid’s poem meet at the tomb of Ninus, legendary founder of the city of Nineveh.

Adieu: French for ‘adios’!

The performance will be followed by a question and answer session with the actors. Please help students to prepare questions!

WE LOVE TO HEAR YOUR LAUGHTER! We request only that students have fun and follow basic theatre etiquette: Listen and React appropriately!